

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
USCINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 13

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 13,
1976:

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, WE STILL DO NOT HAVE HERE --
UNFORTUNATELY -- A COPY OF GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S SPEECH, SO I
DON'T KNOW IF HE ADDRESSED THIS SUBJECT OR NOT. BUT, AS
YOU WELL KNOW, WE HAD ASKED HERE LAST WEEK SEVERAL TIMES
FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON THE
ISRAELI USE OF AMERICAN-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT IN UGANDA. NOW,
DID HE DEAL WITH THAT; AND, IF HE DIDN'T, CAN WE HAVE THE--

A. I DO NOT THINK HE DEALT WITH IT EXPLICITLY, NO.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. POSITION ON THAT? IS IT STILL
STUDYING WHETHER IT WAS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW?
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A. NO. I THINK IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THERE WAS NO VIOLATION.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US HOW IT WAS DECIDED?

A. I DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS. I THINK DETERMINATION WAS
MADE THAT THE USE WHICH THE ISRAELIS MADE OF THESE
AIRCRAFT WAS NOT IN VIOLATION UNDER THE TERMS IN WHICH
THEY HAD RECEIVED THEM.

Q. WELL, CAN YOU TELL US THEN WHAT INTERPRETATION WAS
GIVEN TO THE LAW--THAT IT WAS IN SELF-DEFENSE OR THAT IT
WAS IN SUPPORT OF A REGIONAL DEFENSE ALLIANCE, OR THE
OTHER TERM THAT YOU MENTIONED UNDER THE MILITARY SALES

ACT?

A. I WILL HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT FOR DETAILS.

Q. IN CONNECTION WITH THAT, IT APPEARS FROM THE ACCOUNTS THAT I'VE READ OF SCRANTON'S SPEECH THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED THAT THERE WAS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF UGANDAN COOPERATION OR COLLUSION WITH THE TERRORISTS. CAN YOU EXPAND ON THAT ANY FURTHER?

A. I REALLY CANNOT EXPAND ON WHAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON SAID YESTERDAY IN HIS RATHER EXTENSIVE STATEMENT ON THE WHOLE SUBJECT.

Q. BUT THAT IS THE POSITION NOW OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT?

A. THE POSITION IS AS HE DESCRIBED IT. AND THE APPROPRIATE ACTION THAT WE THINK SHOULD BE TAKEN IS IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION WE TABLED WITH THE BRITISH.

Q. ALSO ON THAT SAME SUBJECT, DO YOU HAVE ANY WORD, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ON THE FATE OF MRS. BLOCH, THE MISSING ISRAELI HOSTAGE?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING MORE THAN THE PRESS REPORTS.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT IN THE PRESS TODAY THAT THE ISRAELIS UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE AIDED BY A CLANDESTINE TEAM OF BLACK AGENTS INSIDE UGANDA. WERE THESE AMERICANS?

A. THEY CERTAINLY WERE NOT AMERICANS. I HAD NOT HEARD THAT BEFORE, BUT I KNOW THERE WERE NO AMERICANS INVOLVED.

Q. YOU SAY YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MORE THAN THE PRESS

ACCOUNTS ON MRS. BLOCH. ONE OF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS IS THAT HER BURNED BODY WAS FOUND OUTSIDE OF KAMPALA. DO YOU HAVE THAT MUCH OFFICIALLY?

A. NO. WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING OFFICIAL ON IT.

Q. WHAT I'M SAYING --

A. ALL THE INFORMATION THAT I AM AWARE THAT WE HAVE IS WHAT WE HAVE READ IN THE PRESS.

Q. BACK ON THE SUBJECT OF GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S SPEECH, CAN WE HAVE A COPY OF THE SPEECH --

A. SURE.

Q. -- SO THAT WE KNOW WHAT THE UNITED STATES POSITION IS?

A. SURE.

Q. ALL RIGHT. NOW, I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO READ THIS SPEECH, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THIS QUESTION IN RELATION TO IT: DO YOU KNOW, OR CAN WE DETERMINE WHAT THE AFRICAN REACTION -- THE REACTION OF AFRICAN NATIONS-- WAS TO THIS SPEECH IN TERMS OF WHETHER IT POLARIZED OR AMELIORATED IN ANY WAY THE ATTITUDE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MANY OF THE AFRICAN NATIONS OVER THE ISRAELI RAID? DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION AT THIS POINT ON WHAT THE REACTION WAS AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S SPEECH?

A. I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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REACTION. AS YOU KNOW, THE DEBATE IS CONTINUING TODAY AND THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT ARE STILL INSCRIBED TO SPEAK ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF FORECAST OR ESTIMATE FROM THE IO SECTION AS TO WHAT THE PROSPECTS ARE FOR OR AGAINST THE AMERICAN-BRITISH RESOLUTION?

A. I HAVE RECEIVED NO ESTIMATE OF PROSPECTS.

Q. IS DIEGO GARCIA NOW AN OPERATIONAL BASE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A. YES. I THINK IT IS OPERATIONAL TO A DEGREE, BUT I

DO NOT KNOW WHETHER IT HAS REACHED ITS FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY. I THINK, FIRST, DEFENSE COULD ANSWER IT; BUT I WILL CHECK INTO IT. I JUST DO NOT KNOW.

Q. COULD YOU TELL US THE STATUS OF THE RANGER TASK FORCE -- APPROXIMATELY WHERE IT'S GOING BESIDES AFRICAN WATERS?

A. YOU WILL HAVE TO CHECK WITH DEFENSE. ALL I HAVE BEEN TOLD IS THAT IT IS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

Q. WELL, THEY DID SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT THIS MORNING. ANYWAY, THERE IS A SIX-SHIP TASK FORCE; A SECOND P-3 ORION AIRPLANE HAS RELIEVED THE FIRST ONE IN NAIROBI AND THE BEARY IS IN PORT. IS THIS CONFLUENCE OF SHIPS AND PLANES MEANT TO BE A SIGNAL OR A DEMONSTRATION?

TION OF ANYTHING?

A. I AM REALLY NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS SAID IN DESCRIBING THEIR PRESENCE.

Q. WELL, THEY SAID NOTHING, BUT --

A. THEY SAID SOMETHING MORE THAN NOTHING.

Q. WELL, NO. IN TERMS OF WHETHER THERE WAS A SIGNAL OR UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT, THEY SAID THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO ADDRESS IT. PUTTING THE QUESTION TO YOU: IS IT MEANT AS A POLITICAL SIGNAL TO EITHER UGANDA OR ANYBODY ELSE IN THE AREA?

A. I AM REALLY NOT ABLE TO GO BEYOND WHAT WE SAID -- THAT WE HAVE HAD SHIPS IN MOMBASA BEFORE. THE SECRETARY, I THINK, WAS ASKED WHAT QUESTION ON SATURDAY AND HE RESPONDED TO IT.

Q. HE WASN'T ASKED THE QUESTION.

Q. THERE WERE THREE SEPARATE ACTIONS ON SATURDAY.

Q. WAS THE VISIT IN MOMBASA SCHEDULED BEFORE THE ISRAELI RESCUE?

A. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WHETHER IT WAS SPECIFICALLY SCHEDULED. THERE HAVE BEEN PORT VISITS IN MOMBASA.

Q. I'D LIKE TO ASK THE QUESTION THIS WAY THEN, IF I MAY: IS THE UNITED STATES CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY

OF ANY MILITARY ACTION THAT MIGHT BE LAUNCHED BY UGANDA AGAINST ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS OVER ITS REACTION TO THE ISRAELI RAID?

A. ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF TENSION ON THE KENYAN-UGANDAN BORDER, ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING THAT SITUATION VERY CLOSELY AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN OUT THERE WHICH WOULD POSE A THREAT TO PEACE IN THE AREA.

Q. COULD YOU -- JUST TO PURSUE THAT A BIT: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY MOBILIZATION FORCES IN THE AREA THAT RAISES ITS STATE OF CONCERN ?

A. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY BRIEFING ON TROOP MOVEMENTS IN THE AREA, BUT THERE CERTAINLY ARE REPORTS OF TENSION. WE HAVE SEEN THEM. AND WE ARE FOLLOWING THAT SITUATION

VERY CLOSELY.
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Q. AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN RECURRING REPORTS
BROADCAST BY THE UGANDA RADIO REPEATING ALLEGATIONS OF
AMERICAN AIRCRAFT -- AMERICAN-ISRAELI AIRCRAFT, AND SO ON.

A. WE DENIED THOSE. THAT IS JUST NONSENSE.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT REGARD APPEASING AFRICA
ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF THE ISRAELI RAID AND THE POSITION
TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED
NATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE FEELING ABOUT THIS?

A. WHAT WAS YOUR VERB? I MISSED THAT.

Q. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED ABOUT THE -- HOW
DID I PUT IT? DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FEEL THAT
APPEASEMENT IS NECESSARY --

A. APPEASEMENT? IS THAT YOUR WORD?

Q. -- OF THE AFRICAN NATIONS BECAUSE OF THE ISRAELI RAID?

A. I ABSOLUTELY REJECT THAT VERB TO DESCRIBE THE BASIS
OF OUR RELATIONS WITH AFRICA.

Q. IT'S A NOUN, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.

A. OKAY, VERB, NOUN OR WORD.

Q. THE SECRETARY OF STATE KNOCKED DOWN THE REPORT THAT

WAS CIRCULATED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD SECOND
THOUGHTS ABOUT PRAISING THE ISRAELI RAID FOR REASONS NOT
GIVEN, EXCEPT THAT THE AFRICANS WERE INCENSED ABOUT IT --
SOME AFRICANS WERE INCENSED ABOUT IT, SOME ARABS.

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS, IN THE LIGHT OF
CONTINUED QUESTIONING OF THE ISRAELI RAID, WHETHER
THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD THIRD THOUGHTS ABOUT IT.

A. OUR THOUGHTS -- THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S THOUGHTS AND
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THE ADMINISTRATION THOUGHTS WERE EXPRESSED BY GOVERNOR
SCRANTON YESTERDAY.

Q. YOU SAY YOU'RE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION ON THE
KENYAN-UGANDAN BORDER CLOSELY.

A. YES.

Q. AND WHILE YOU ARE FOLLOWING IT CLOSELY, THERE IS AN UNUSUAL CONFLUENCE OF AMERICAN SHIPS AND PLANES IN THE AREA. NOW, CAN WE ASSUME THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE TWO EVENTS?

A. I WILL JUST RESTATE THE EXPLANATION GIVEN -- THAT THE P-3 THAT STOPPED IN NAIROBI STOPPED THERE IN THE COURSE OF A GENERAL OPERATING MISSION AND THE BEARY IS CARRYING OUT A NORMAL PORT CALL AT MOMBASA AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST--

Q. CONVERSELY THEN--

A. -- AND WE HAVE ALSO HAD A NAVY TASK FORCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BEFORE ALSO.

Q. WELL, CONVERSELY THEN, ARE WE TO ASSUME THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE TWO EVENTS?

A. YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE YOUR OWN ASSUMPTIONS. I CANNOT MAKE ASSUMPTIONS.

Q. THESE P-3S HAVE BEEN THERE BEFORE?

A. PARDON ME?

Q. DID YOU SAY P-3S HAVE BEEN THERE BEFORE?

A. NO, I DID NOT SAY THAT.

Q. IF YOU ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY HERE AND YOU'RE HOPEFUL THAT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN, WHY ARE YOU SO RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES SENDING SOME UNITS INTO THE AREA HAS ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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RELATIONSHIP TO YOUR STATE OF CONCERN? WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THAT?

A. YOU KNOW, I THINK I HAVE STATED -- AND I THINK THE SECRETARY STATED ON SATURDAY -- THAT THE SHIP WAS IN MOMBASA, AND IT HAS BEEN THERE BEFORE; AND I AM SAYING TODAY THAT WE HAVE HAD A TASK FORCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN BEFORE.

Q. WHEN WAS THE MOST RECENT PORT CALL ON MOMBASA BEFORE?

A. PARDON ME?

Q. WHEN WAS THE MOST RECENT PORT CALL ON MOMBASA BEFORE?

A. YOU WILL HAVE TO CHECK WITH DEFENSE. I DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION.

Q. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT A SECOND P-3 HAS RELIEVED THE FIRST P-3.

A. YES.

Q. I DONT KNOW WHY YOU'RE NODDING YOUR HEAD.

A. WELL, IT WAS SAID BEFORE --

Q. RIGHT.

A. -- IN THE BRIEFING.

Q. I HEARD IT.

A. OH.

Q. BUT DOES THIS INDICATE THAT THERE IS NOW GOING TO BE A NORMAL CONTINUING USE OF KENYAN BASES BY P-3S FROM DIEGO GARCIA?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK DEFENSE.

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A. DOESNT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT NORMALLY CONSULT WITH THE STATE DEPT BEFORE IT SENDS A FRIGATE ON A PORT CALL OR ANY NAVAL VESSEL ON A PORT CALL?

A. IT IS PART OF THE PROCEDURE ON PORT CALLS. THE STATE DEPT IS CONSULTED OR INFORMED, YES.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPT EVER ASK THE DEFENSE DEPT TO SEND A SHIP TO MAKE A PORT CALL?

A. IT IS NOT INCONVEIVABLE, BUT I AM NOT AWARE OF A SPECIFIC INSTANCE.

Q. COULD YOU FIND OUT IF THAT WAS DONE IN THIS CASE?

A. I WILL CHECK INTO IT.

Q. IF I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY THEN, YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE US A RUNDOWN; ARE YOU?

A. I DID NOT SAY I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU A RUNDOWN. I SAID I WAS GOING TO CHECK INTO IT.

Q. WELL I WAS JUST REFERRING TO A SERIES OF QUESTION THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED HERE.

ARE YOU ABLE TO GIVE US A RUNDOWN ON THE FREQUENCY AND THE DATES OF PORT CALLS BY US VESSELS IN KENYA, AND ALSO OF THE FREQUENCY AND DATES OF US AIRCRAFT -- MILITARY AIRCRAFT -- ARRIVALS IN KENYA?

A. I WILL CHECK WITH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

Q. ONE QUESTION. AS A REMINDER HERE, JUST SO THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON ONE OF THE FIRST QUESTIONS YOU TOOK ON THE QUESTION OF THE LEGAL OFFICE DETERMINATION OF THE USE OF AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR THE ISRAELI RAID, CAN WE HAVE A LEGAL JUDGMENT ON THAT IN WRITING?

A. I AM GOING TO POST WHATEVER INFORMATION I CAN OBTAIN.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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